Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 1. October —, 1885.

Sir,

I was quite astonished at the statement emanating from the Mint Bureau that the cost of making a Silver Dollar at the Mint in New Orleans is One and a half (1½) cents, and in our Mint in Philad^a two cents; i.e. that the coinage of silver in Phila^a costs 33⅓ pr. ct. (=⅓) more than in N. Orleans. Of course I do not doubt the data, but I am extremely anxious to learn what are the elements of the calculation, in order, if possible, to rectify such a discrepancy. I take the liberty of mentioning a few points, which I beg the Bureau to consider, whether they may modify the result.

Prior to this year and the last, we had a very large business in both Gold and Silver, and yet no larger force to execute the business of both metals.

and upto 30 June 1882

Thus in 1881, the business in melting gold amounted to 12,727,000 oz. In the same period we melted 28,937,000 oz. Silver. We thus melted nearly half as much more gold as Silver in weight in the same time, 18 months, without extra force of men, and we usually have an extra force in reserve for such extra amount of work. Hence our pay roll may seem excessive for some periods of time when we are only melting Silver.

In order to determine what the apparent increase of cost is due to, it should be divided between the M. & R. and the Coiner. I urge this point the more, because I have heard of operations credited to the Coining Department, of which I have no certain knowledge, but believe that they were made to swell the cost of making our principal coin, the Silver Dollar;

Very respectfully.

Hon. D. M. Fox,
Superintendent.

I. P. C. Booth
M & R